

PROPOSED DRAFT CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please consider the following proposed draft claim amendments for claim 1, 20, and 40 after considering the remarks set forth below.

1. A hearing test device comprising:
 - a testing probe for insertion into an ear canal of a test subject;
 - a stimuli source for transmitting pre-test stimuli into the ear canal;
 - a receiver for receiving, pre-test, response signals from the ear canal in response to the transmitted pre-test stimuli; and
 - a processor for determining, pre-test, from the response signals whether at least one condition related to the position of the testing probe in the ear canal is satisfied, and automatically starting a hearing test after if the at least one condition is satisfied.

20. A method of starting a hearing test, the method employed by a hearing test device having a test probe positioned in an ear canal of a test subject, the method comprising:
 - transmitting a plurality of stimuli into the ear canal;
 - receiving a plurality of response signals from the ear canal in response to the plurality of stimuli;
 - performing, using at least a portion of the plurality of response signals, at least one first test related to the position of the testing probe in the ear canal; and
 - automatically starting a second, hearing test after if the at least one first test is passed.

40. A method of starting a hearing test, the method employed by a hearing test device having a testing probe positioned in an ear canal of a test subject, the method comprising:
 - (a) determining whether the testing probe is properly positioned in the ear canal;
 - (b) automatically starting a hearing test after if it is determined that the testing probe is properly positioned in the ear canal; and
 - (c) automatically repeating steps (a) and (b) if it is determined that the testing probe is not properly positioned in the ear canal.